

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listing of the claims in the present application:

Listing of Claims:

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1. (currently amended) A method for the prevention of dysglucaemia in ~~[[humans]]~~ a patient, the method involving a minimal supply of calories, characterized in that a predetermined amount of starch is administered orally to ~~the human~~ said patient in granulated form having a reduced surface available for enzymatic degradation, which granulation delays the enzymatic degradation of the starch into reducing sugars to a duration and level, adjusted to the metabolism of the patient.

β'  
2. (currently amended) A method for the long term prevention of nocturnal and/or morning hypoglycaemia in patients suffering from ~~diabetes, including both~~ insulin dependent diabetes ~~[[IDDM]] (IDDM) and NIDDM, characterized in that wherein~~ a predetermined amount of starch is administered orally to the patient in granulated form, which granulation delays the enzymatic degradation of the starch into reducing sugars to a duration and level, adjusted to the metabolism of the patient.

3. (currently amended) A method for effective glycaemic control in diabetic patients, the method involving a minimal supply of calories, characterized in that a predetermined

amount of starch is administered orally to the patient in granulated form, which granulation delays the enzymatic degradation of the starch into reducing sugars to a duration and level, adjusted to the metabolism of the patient.

4. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are patients scheduled to undergo surgical or invasive medical treatment.

5. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are diabetic patients scheduled for surgical or invasive medical treatment.

B  
6. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are suffering from a chronic disease, ~~such as a disease chosen among:~~ selected from the group consisting of viral infections, liver disease, hepatitis, alcohol abuse, cancer, HIV, AIDS, and [[or]] a combination thereof.

7. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are patients on post-operative medication, having undergone surgical or invasive treatment.

8. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of claims 4-7~~ claim 4, characterized in that the treatment is given in conjunction to insulin treatment.

9. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 5, characterized in that the treatment is given in conjunction to insulin treatment.

10. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 6, characterized in that the treatment is given in conjunction to insulin treatment.

11. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the treatment is given in conjunction to insulin treatment.

12. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

13. (currently amended) The method according to [[claims]] claim 1, characterized in that the starch is native cornstarch.

14. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 2, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as~~

~~long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

15. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 3, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

16. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 4, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

17. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 5, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

18. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 6, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

19. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 7, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are

athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

20. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 8, characterized in that ~~the humans~~ said patients are athletes training or participating in an endurance sport, ~~such as long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.~~

21. (currently amended) [[A]] The method according to claim 12, characterized in that ~~the humans are athletes training or participating in an~~ said endurance sport, ~~such as is selected from the group consisting of~~ long distance running, long distance skiing or long distance skating.

22. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl

cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

24. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

27. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose,

ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 8, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 12, characterized in that the starch is encapsulated in a substance ~~chosen among~~ selected from the group consisting of gum arabicum, potassium alginate, guar gum, methyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose; liquid oils, liquid and hard fats and waxes, such as paraffin, hydrogenated cottonseed oil, beeswax, and carnauba wax.

31. (original) The method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

32. (original) The method according to any one of claim 2, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

33. (original) The method according to claim 3, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

34. (original) The method according to claim 4, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

35. (original) The method according to any one of claim 5, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

36. (original) The method according to claim 6, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

37. (original) The method according to claim 7, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

38. (original) The method according to claim 8, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.

39. (original) The method according to claim 12, **characterized** in that the starch is encapsulated in ethyl cellulose.



40. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

41. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

42. (currently amended) The method according to claim 3, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

43. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

44. (currently amended) The method according to claim 5, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for

more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

45. (currently amended) The method according to claim 6, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

46. (currently amended) The method according to claim 7, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

47. (currently amended) The method according to any one of claim 8, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

48. (currently amended) The method according to claim 12, **characterized** in that the enzymatic degradation is delayed to an extent resulting in a linear release of reducing sugars for more than 4 hours, ~~preferably more than 6 hours, most preferably about 8 hours.~~

49-64. (canceled)